

MARCH 13, 2009

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 3-13-09
SB 463

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR PERSON AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMEBERS;

MY NAME IS TINA OWEN AND I RESIDE AT 143 NEW MEADOWS DRIVE IN MISSOULA, MONTANA. MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE SON WITH AUTISM AND I AM HEAR AGAIN TO SPEAK ON BEHAVE OF MY SON AND OTHER FAMILIES IN REGARDS TO SB463. WE ARE PLEADING WITH EVERYONE THAT HAS A SAY ON THIS BILL TO KEEP CARTER'S AND THE OTHER KIDDO'S RESPITE MONIES FLEXIBLE. HIS NEEDS ARE SO INTENSE THAT WE VALUE THE ELASTICITY OF WHO WE CAN HIRE TO SPEND PRECIOUS TIME WITH OUR SON.

MY HUSBAND AND I, AS PARENTS, RESPECT AND APPRECIATE THE CONTROL THAT WE NOW HAVE TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS FOR OUR SON. IF THIS BILL WOULD PASS, IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL FOR CARTER AND A HARDSHIP ON OUR FAMILY. THIS BILL WOULD TAKE AWAY A HUGE PORTION OF HIS RESPITE BUDGET PAYING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. THESE MONIES COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE FOR HIM IN EDUCATION WITH LEARNING SOCIAL ETIQUETTE AND INTERACTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR ADULthood. CARTER HAS ADVANCED AND PROFITTED SO MUCH IN THE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN DOING HIS RESPITE THIS WAY THAT HIS FUTURE IS LOOKING VERY BRIGHT. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS AWAY FROM CARTER SINCE IT IS CURRENTLY OPERATING NICELY THE WAY IT IS. NOT

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO COME HERE AND TESTIFY ON HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO MY FAMILY. I KNOW THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO VOTE ON, BUT PLEASE THINK OF THE CHILDREN AND THEIR NEEDS.

AGAIN THANK YOU AND HAVE A NICE WEEKEND.

FROM THE LOVING FAMILY OF CARTER OWEN, MOM (TINA), DAD (BRUCE), AND SISTER (TAYLOR).